

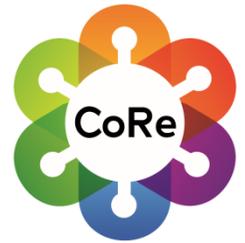


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NPA Covid-19 Response (CoRe): Analysing emerging themes in the 'new' environment of living with COVID-19, through the twin lenses of care homes and university campuses



Citizen Summary

<https://core.interreg-npa.eu/thematic-projects/>

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Emerging Themes - Analysing emerging themes in the 'new' environment of living with COVID-19, through the twin lenses of care homes and university campuses

Our Analysis of Emerging Themes (AET) through the lenses of care homes and university campuses was carried out in regions of Finland, N Ireland, Scotland and Sweden. It was led by the Research Development and Innovation (RD&I) department of NHS Highland, co-ordinated by Highland Health Ventures Ltd (HHVL) and reported on by partners from each of the four countries.

This was based around examining the experiences of care home staff, university staff and students during the COVID-19 pandemic and how these relate to society as a whole through sharing the findings of the five other key project areas covered by the COVID-19 Response Group (clinical aspects, mental wellbeing, technological solutions, citizens' engagement and economic impact).

In each of the 4 countries, it has been difficult to separate the response to COVID-19 in universities from that at a senior pupil level in schools. Accordingly, the focus of our lens was widened to include them.

There have been many similarities in relation to the approach taken by governments to the impact of COVID-9 on care homes and education. These similarities extend to:

- Criticisms and recognition of the burden felt by care home staff, by residents and by the families of the residents;
- The socio-economic impact as people struggle to balance loss of income with reduced working hours and childcare during school closures;
- The use of technology to ensure social distancing in care homes, on campuses, the hospitality sector and transport;
- The introduction of e/m-Health interventions to mitigate anxiety and stress;

Similarly, in the education sector in schools and universities, key issues included:

- The socio-economic impact of school pupils and university students from the same family working from home and sharing limited IT resources with parents who were also working from home;
- Digital poverty (the cost of devices and mobile data) disproportionately excluding young people from less affluent backgrounds from distance learning initiatives;
- A belief among young people that they were largely unaffected by COVID-19;
- Poor communication around the availability of on-campus-testing prior to students returning home prior to Christmas.

Our report elaborates on our findings around the responses to these themes in each of the four countries and can be found on the project website